

### REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Appreciation is expressed to Examiner Prone for the indication that Claims 6, 8 and 20 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter recited in Claim 6, Claim 8 has been amended to include the subject matter recited in independent Claim 1, and Claim 18 has been amended to set forth the subject matter recited in Claim 20. In addition, Claim 20 has been canceled and Claim 6 has been amended to depend from Claim 8. It is thus respectfully submitted that Claims 1-11, 18 and 19 are allowable.

In addition, the subject matter of Claim 6 has been incorporated into independent Claim 12. It is respectfully submitted that independent Claim 12 is allowable as the documents relied upon in the Official Action do not disclose a living organ dilator comprising a tubular shaft main body, a balloon provided at the distal end portion of the shaft main body and a stent mounted to envelope the balloon, wherein the stent comprises the claimed combination of features, including two or more of links being provided between an adjacent pair of the annular units.

It is believed that this application is in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

Should any questions arise in connection with this application or should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference with the undersigned would be helpful

in resolving any remaining issues pertaining to this application the undersigned respectfully requests that he be contacted at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

Buchanan Ingersoll PC

Date: January 25, 2006

By: Matthew L. Schneider  
Matthew L. Schneider  
Registration No. 32,814

P.O. Box 1404  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404  
(703) 836-6620